

Code Blue Project

Final Report

February 1, 2001 – March 31, 2007

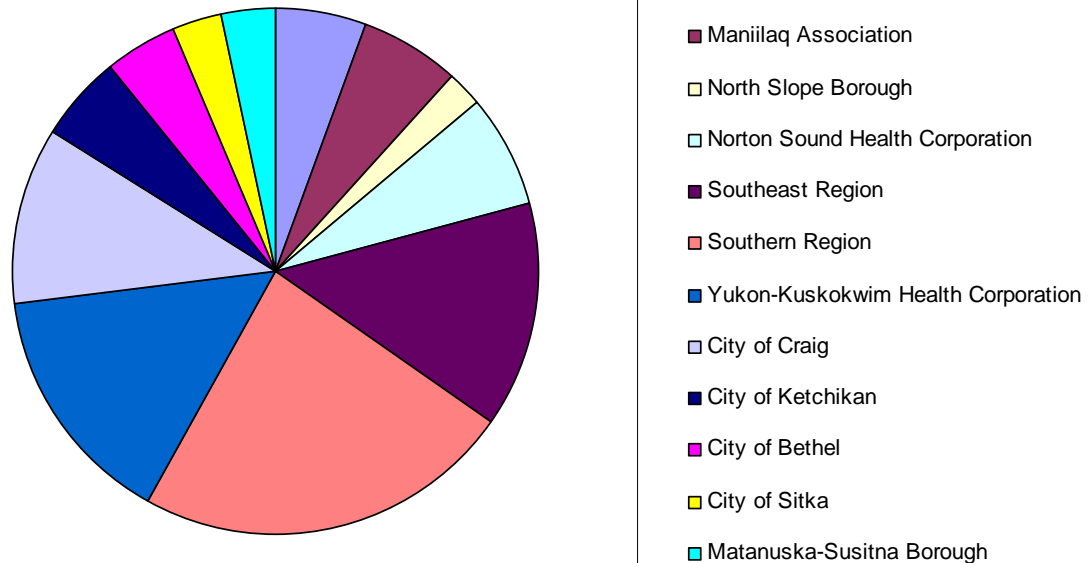
Overview: The Code Blue Project is a partnership between state, regional and local EMS agencies intended to identify, prioritize and fund essential emergency medical services equipment. The project has benefited enormously from the assistance, both financial and technical, of the Denali Commission. Through the Denali Commission, the Code Blue Project has been able to fund critical EMS infrastructure, primarily certain categories of patient care and communications equipment.

Activities: The Code Blue program is a unique program in that it considers EMS needs across the state versus looking at needs just across a single region. The Steering Committee is comprised of each Regional Director and an Injury Prevention and EMS (IPEMS) staff person. The regions will evaluate needs and requests and bring the highest priorities to the Steering Committee for consideration for Code Blue funding. The Steering Committee evaluates the requests and discusses funding and priority. Most of the Denali Commission money went to the regions as grants to fund a variety of items such as: oxygen kits, spinal immobilization kits; VHF base station radios; splints; ambulance gurneys, and pediatric dosage calculation systems.

In addition, there were several larger communication infrastructure grants to individual communities/ boroughs. The cities of Craig, Ketchikan, Sitka, Bethel and Matanuska-Susitna Borough received funding under this program. A table containing information on the amounts and recipients of these allocations is found below. On the next page is a chart reflecting the distribution of funds.

Region/Community/Borough	Amount of Money
Interior Region	\$51,118
Maniilaq Association	\$57,310
North Slope Borough	\$19,500
Norton Sound Health Corporation	\$65,802
Southeast Region	\$126,274
Southern Region	\$217,091
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	\$139,780
City of Craig	\$98,891
City of Ketchikan	\$50,000
City of Bethel	\$39,100
City of Sitka	\$30,000
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	\$30,000
Total	\$924,866

Denali Commission Funding



Challenges: The Code Blue Project continues to face some significant challenges, including:

- The need to coordinate with other funding agencies to maximize expenditures;
- The small staff sizes of grantees and competing demands on their time; and
- Changes in EMS communications infrastructure in Alaska.

The Code Blue Steering Committee and IPEMS have been successful in receiving State Capital matching funds each year to support the program. This is an ongoing request that was funded initially at \$533,000. Over the project activity period, funding diminished to \$425,000, then \$325,000/year and the last two years the money has increased again to \$425,000/year, which should continue into the future.

The regions have also been successful in receiving United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for rural EMS equipment needs. This current year, only one region was able to obtain funds due to greater needs across the country. The USDA program managers in Alaska have restated their commitment to the program and the regions will apply for funding in the coming year.

Rasmuson Foundation has also provided funding in the past. With the lost of the USDA funding this year, more regions/communities will most likely apply to Rasmuson Foundation for funding of their higher priority needs.

Our seven Regional EMS Offices have relatively small staffs with workloads that have increased significantly as local funding for EMS training and operations have eroded. To increase the efficiency of the Code Blue Project and to focus workloads more appropriately, the Section of Injury Prevention and EMS has worked directly with local communities on larger EMS communications projects, while keeping the Regional EMS Offices informed and able to contribute to the decision making processes. This arrangement has worked well in the past. The Regional EMS Offices will continue to work on funding infrastructure related to patient care and small communications projects.

The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Project is changing the face of emergency communications in Alaska. The project is a partnership between the Department of Defense, the State of Alaska, and local communities. It provides capabilities that far exceed those of conventional systems used in Alaska. The relatively rapid deployment of the system, coupled with the issues associated with migrating to, or integrating, the new digital system has made communications planning more difficult. We hope to conduct a thorough statewide communications assessment to determine higher priority needs and to assist communities migrating to the system to do so as painlessly as possible.

Plans: The Section of Injury Prevention and EMS continues to work closely with the Regional EMS Offices, local EMS agencies, and others to fulfill the potential of the Code Blue Project.